

APPENDIX A. Title VI/Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations,” reaffirms the principles of Title VI and related statutes. The Executive Order requires the consideration of low-income, minority, disabled, female, and elderly populations. The US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, refers to these populations according to the following definitions:

- A minority person refers to a person who is racially classified as African American, Asian American, Native American or Alaskan Native, Pacific Islander, or anyone who classifies himself or herself as “other” race, and Hispanics.
- Hispanics are considered an ethnicity, not a separate race; they are considered minorities regardless of their racial self-affiliation.
- Elderly refers to individuals 60 years of age and over.
- A set of money-income thresholds that varies by family size and composition is used to identify low-income persons. If the total income for a family or unrelated individual falls below the relevant poverty threshold, then the family or unrelated individual is classified as being “below the poverty level” at the time of the census.
- Noninstitutionalized civilians (people not under formally authorized, supervised care or custody in institutions like hospitals and prisons) who are 5 years of age and older are considered to be disabled if they report a long-lasting physical, mental, or emotional condition.
- Female head of household refers to a female who maintains a household with no husband of the household present while living with one or more people related to her by birth, marriage, or adoption.

Project area data were compared and contrasted with the data for the city of Flagstaff and all of Coconino County to assess whether minority, elderly, low-income, disabled, or female head of household populations are disproportionately represented in the project area. According to FHWA’s 1998 guidance (*FHWA Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*), a population is considered concentrated and identifiable (a “distinct” population) if it composes more than 50 percent of the total population in a given geographic area, though a very small minority or low-income population in the project area does not eliminate the possibility of a disproportionately high and negative effect on that population.

The demographic composition of the project area was calculated using the Bureau of the Census’ 2000 *Census of Population and Housing*. Census tracts are relatively permanent geographic subdivisions used for recording census information; tracts do not cross county boundaries. They are delineated with the intention of being maintained over a long period of time for statistical comparisons. The size of census tracts varies widely depending on the density of settlement. Block groups are further geographic

subdivisions of census tracts comprising a compact and contiguous cluster of census blocks, the smallest subdivision used by the census. Each census tract contains a minimum of one block group and may have a maximum of nine block groups. The boundaries of all census tracts and block groups in the project area extend beyond the project boundaries; therefore, the exact population and demographic characteristics of the project area may vary from the represented block group data.